We claim:

1. A method for providing a color photographic image comprising:

A) color developing an imagewise exposed color photographic material using a color developing composition comprising at least 0.0005 mol/l of a color developing agent,

B) stopping color development by contacting said color photographic material with an acidic stop solution having a pH less than or equal to 5, and

C) desilvering said color photographic material with a composition having photographic bleaching capability,

provided that said acidic stop solution comprises at least 0.001 mol/l of a polyphosphonic acid or a salt thereof, and a portion of said stop solution is carried over into said bleaching composition at a rate so that the amount of said polyphosphonic acid (or salt thereof) carried over into said bleaching composition is from about 0.000005 to about 0.001 mol per m^2 of processed color photographic material.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said acidic stop solution further comprises a heterocyclic, aliphatic, or aromatic thiol.

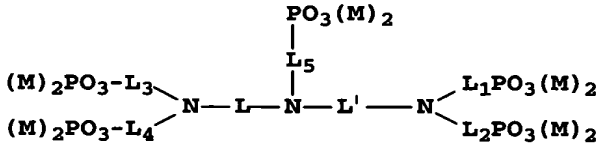
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said polyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is present in said acidic stop solution in an amount of from about 0.001 to about 1 mol/l.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said acidic stop solution has a pH of from about 1 to about 4.8.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said polyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is a diphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof), polyaminopolyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof), or cyclicaminodiphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof).

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said diphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is a hydroxyalkylidene diphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof), aminodiphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof), amino-N,N-dimethylenephosphonic acid (or a salt thereof), or N-acyl aminodiphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof).

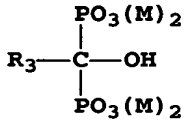
7. The method of claim 5 wherein said polyaminopolyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is a compound that is represented by the following Structure I:



(I)

wherein L, L', L_1, L_2, L_3, L_4 and L_5 are independently substituted or unsubstituted divalent aliphatic linking groups, each independently having 1 to 4 carbon, oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen atoms in the linking group chain, and M is hydrogen or a monovalent cation.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein said polyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is a compound that is represented by the following Structure II:



(II)

wherein R_3 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and M is hydrogen or a monovalent cation.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein said polyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is a cyclicaminodiphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) wherein

the cyclicamino group comprises a substituted or unsubstituted 3- to 6-membered ring that is attached to a methyl group that includes two phosphonic acids (or salts thereof).

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said cyclicaminomethanediphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is morpholinomethanediphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof).

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said color developing composition comprises a color developing agent that is present in an amount of at from about 0.0005 to about 0.25 mol/l, and an antioxidant that is a monoalkyl- or dialkylhydroxylamine derivative that is present in an amount of at least 0.0005 mol/l.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said color photographic material is a color photographic paper or a color negative film.

13. The method of claim 1 that is carried out in a minilab.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said bleaching composition is a bleach-fixing composition.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein said acidic stop solution is carried over into said bleaching composition at a rate of from about 0.000005 to about 0.001 ml per m^2 of processed photographic material.

16. A method for providing a color photographic image comprising:

A) color developing an imagewise exposed color negative photographic film or color photographic paper using a color developing

composition comprising at least 0.0005 mol/l of a color developing agent and at least 0.0005 mol/l of an organic antioxidant,

B) stopping color development by contacting said color photographic material with an acidic stop solution having a pH of from about 1 to about 5, and comprising from about 0.001 to about 1 mol/l of morpholinomethanediphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) and from about 0.0005 to about 0.5 mol/l of L- cysteine or 2-dimethylaminoethanethiol-HCl,

C) bleaching said color negative photographic film or color photographic paper with a peroxide or persulfate photographic bleaching composition, and

D) subsequently or simultaneously, fixing said bleached color negative photographic film or color photographic paper,

wherein said acidic stop solution is carried over into said bleaching composition at a rate such that said morpholinomethanediphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is carried over to said bleaching composition in an amount of from about 0.000005 to about 0.001 mol per m^2 of processed color negative photographic film or color photographic paper.

17. An acidic stop solution having a pH less than or equal to 5 and consisting essentially of at least 0.001 mol/l of a polyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof), and at least 0.0005 mol/l of a heterocyclic, aliphatic, or aromatic thiol.

18. The acidic stop solution of claim 17 having a pH of from about 1 to about 4.8.

19. The acidic stop solution of claim 17 wherein said aliphatic or aromatic thiol is L-cysteine or 2-dimethylaminoethanethiol-HCl.

20. The acidic stop solution of claim 17 wherein said polyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is polyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is

a diphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof), polyaminopolyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof), or cyclicaminodiphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof).

21. The acidic stop solution of claim 17 wherein said polyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is morpholinomethanediphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof).

22. A method for providing a color photographic image comprising:

A) color developing an imagewise exposed color photographic material using a color developing composition comprising at least 0.0005 mol/l of a color developing agent,

B) desilvering said color photographic material, and

C) at any time after step A, washing said color photographic material with a wash solution having a pH greater than 5 and consisting essentially of a polyphosphonic acid or a salt thereof and an anionic or nonionic surfactant.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein said polyphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is a cyclicaminodiphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) wherein the cyclicamino group comprises a substituted or unsubstituted 3- to 6-membered ring that is attached to a methyl group that includes two phosphonic acids (or salts thereof).

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said cyclicaminomethanediphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof) is morpholinomethanediphosphonic acid (or a salt thereof).